

Our Goal . . .

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) will collect complete, timely and accurate data on all cancer cases diagnosed in the state.

Primary Functions

- Maintain a statewide cancer incidence reporting system.
- Maintain and retrieve accurate, reliable and timely cancer incidence data.
- Monitor data accuracy and completeness through systematic quality assurance procedures.
- Analyze cancer incidence and mortality data.
- Disseminate cancer information and facilitate studies related to cancer prevention and control.

Primary Uses of Data

- Identify populations at increased risk of cancer.
- Monitor trends in cancer incidence and mortality so that appropriate and timely interventions are undertaken.

Primary Uses of Data (continued)

- Facilitate research related to the etiology and prevention of cancer in Texans.
- Investigate public concerns of suspected excesses of cancer due to environmental or other factors.
- Evaluate cancer prevention and control initiatives.
- Plan health-care delivery systems.
- Develop cancer education programs.

Reporting Requirements

The Texas Cancer Incidence Reporting Act (Chapter 82, Health and Safety Code, amended September 1, 2001) requires health care facilities, clinical laboratories, as well as physicians and dentists (in certain circumstances) to report requested data within 6 months of a patient's admission, with a diagnosis, or treatment for cancer in Texas.

The department may not request data that are more than three years old unless the department is investigating a possible cancer cluster. Physicians and dentists are only required to report data for cancer cases that have not been previously reported.

Reporting Methods

Reported cancer cases follow the standards of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries. Reporting methods include:

Reporting Methods (continued)

- TCR confidential cancer reporting form.
- Floppy disk (3 1/2").
- Computer modem.
- Internet with password protection and encryption.
- CD-ROM.

Confidentiality

Reports, records and information obtained under the Texas Cancer Incidence Reporting Act are confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. They are not subject to subpoena, and may not otherwise be released or made public except as provided in Chapter 82, Health and Safety Code, §82.008(h) and §82.009.

The reports, records and information obtained under this Act are for the confidential use of the Texas Department of Health and the persons or public or private entities that the Department determines are necessary to carry out the intent of the Act.

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance procedures ensure the reliability, completeness, consistency and comparability of cancer registry data. Quality assurance procedures include:

- Automated and manual data edits.

Quality Assurance (continued)

- Data quality audits and casefinding studies to estimate data completeness and accuracy.
- Internal and external training to ensure precise and valid data extraction and coding.

Regional Operations

The Texas Cancer Registry achieves statewide coverage through five regional registries located in Lubbock, Arlington, Houston, San Antonio and Austin. These regional registries ensure cancer reporting from all of the 11 Texas Public Health Regions. In addition, these registries:

- Identify reporting sources.
- Determine expected case loads.
- Monitor compliance.
- Train institutional staff in appropriate reporting methods.
- Provide technical assistance.
- Review and process data.
- Perform quality control activities.
- Disseminate cancer information.



Data Reports

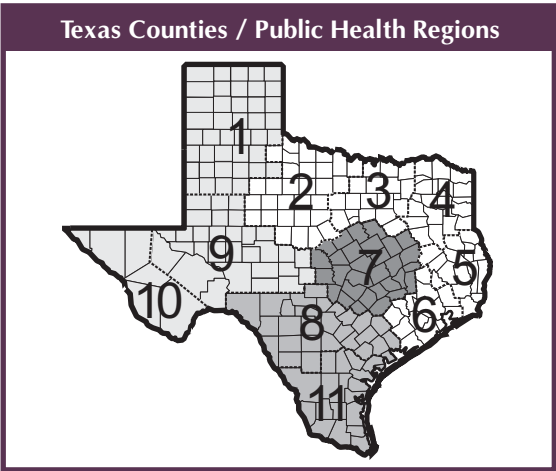
The Texas Cancer Registry analyzes as well as collects cancer data. Registry data reports include:

- Reports of each submitting facility's cancer experience (available only to that reporting facility).
- Population-based cancer incidence reports for the total state and other geographic areas within the state, such as public health region or county.
- Cancer mortality reports for the total state and other geographic areas within the state, such as public health region or county.
- Special data reports upon request.
- Incidence and mortality reports available online.



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The Source for Cancer Incidence Data in Texas



C o l l e c t
A n a l y z e
N o t i f y
C o l l a b o r a t e
E v a l u a t e
R e p o r t



Texas Department of Health
Cancer Registry Division